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**Sent:** 11/13/2014 6:54:48 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Embargoed release: Highway 36 Public Health Assessment  
**Attachments:** Highway\_36\_PHAfinal\_final.pdf; Highway\_36\_PHAfinal\_Summary\_final.pdf

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**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 3:37 PM

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**Subject:** Embargoed release: Highway 36 Public Health Assessment

## **Embargoed release of Highway 36 PHA November 12, 2014**

Tomorrow the Oregon Health Authority will release the final Public Health Assessment (PHA) for the Highway 36 Exposure Investigation (EI). This document, which reports on the EI findings to date, incorporates public comments received on the May 9, 2013 draft PHA. Some changes were made to the draft document, in response to the comments received.

The full report and summary are attached to this email.

### **What information is included in this report?**

The report analyzes the following sets of information:

- Community-collected urine sampling data from the spring of 2011;
- Urine sampling data collected by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) in August 2011;
- Environmental sampling data (soil, water, homegrown foods) collected by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) & the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in September of 2011;
- Air and water data submitted by community members; and
- 2011 pesticide application record data provided by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

### **What are the differences between the public comment version and this final version?**

- This version summarizes public comments and explains how OHA responded to and addressed those comments (Appendix A).
- This version includes a new analysis for pre- and post-pesticide application (community-collected) urine samples. This new analysis resulted in a new conclusion, which states: ***“There are additional sources of 2,4-D and atrazine in the investigation area that are not accounted for in the pesticide application records available to the investigation team.”***
- This version has clarified language throughout the report, specifically in describing the agency-collected data as an attempt to characterize *baseline* conditions. This is because the agency sampling occurred at a time of year when herbicide use was presumably at its lowest levels, which is reflected in the sampling results. The original EI plan was to conduct a complete round of sampling immediately post-application, to assess whether we observed different results – and thus exposure potential – in the sampling. That post-application sampling did not occur, for reasons that were beyond the investigation team’s control. Therefore, we do not know what the levels of herbicides may be in times or seasons other than the timeframe when agency samples were collected. This clarification is reflected in a modified conclusion (12), which now states: ***“Drinking water was eliminated as an exposure pathway for 2,4-D and atrazine in the fall of 2011”***, and in a new conclusion (15), which states: ***“Concentrations of***

***pesticides in drinking water, soil and homegrown foods in the spring of 2011 and other seasons and years are unknown.”***

There is a new recommendation aimed at preventing human exposures to pesticides, recommending that **“State agencies continue to collaborate on determining best practices that would protect human populations from pesticide exposures.”**

### **What are the original Exposure Investigation questions?**

The report is focused on answering these original EI questions:

1. Are residents in the Highway 36 Corridor being exposed to pesticides from local application practices?
2. If residents are being exposed:
  - a. To what pesticides are they being exposed?
  - b. To what levels are they being exposed?
  - c. What are potential source(s) of the pesticides to which they are exposed?
  - d. What are potential routes (pathways) of residents' exposures?
  - e. What health risks are associated with these exposures?

Our website ([www.healthoregon.org/ehap](http://www.healthoregon.org/ehap)) will be updated with the final report tomorrow afternoon. This is where you can read the public comments and view more information about the Highway 36 Exposure Investigation. If you would like a hard copy of the report and summary mailed to you, please contact Karen Bishop: [Karen.bishop@state.or.us](mailto:Karen.bishop@state.or.us).

For media inquiries, please contact Jonathan Modie: [jonathan.n.modie@state.or.us](mailto:jonathan.n.modie@state.or.us)

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